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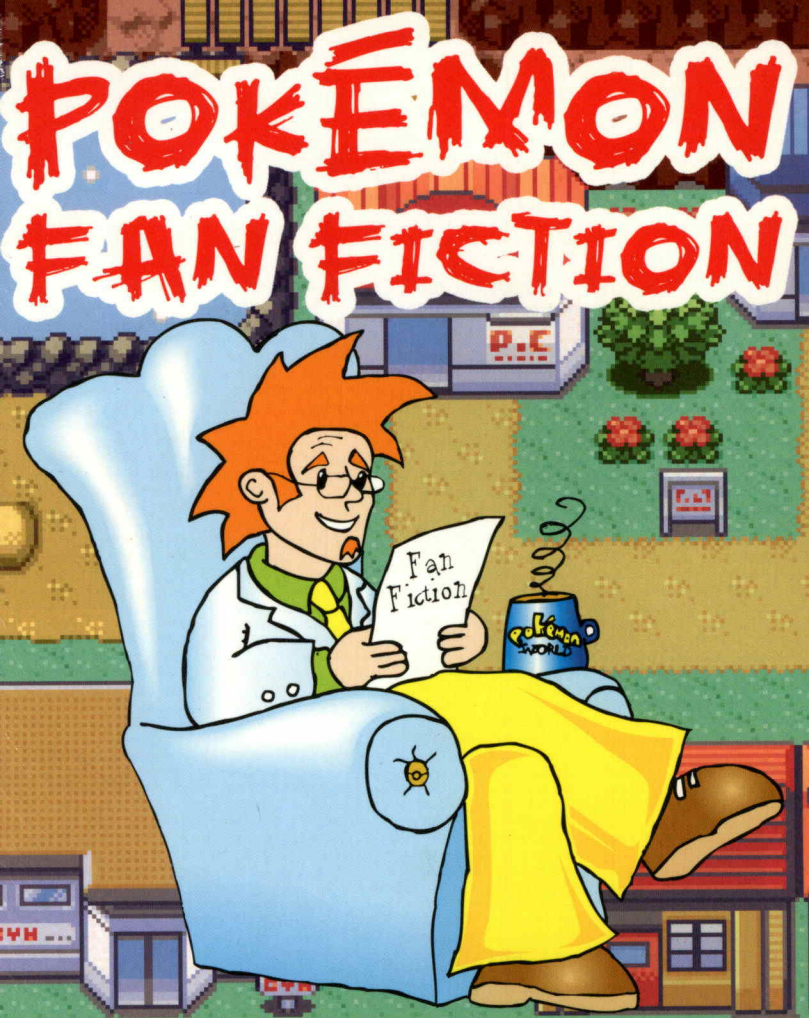

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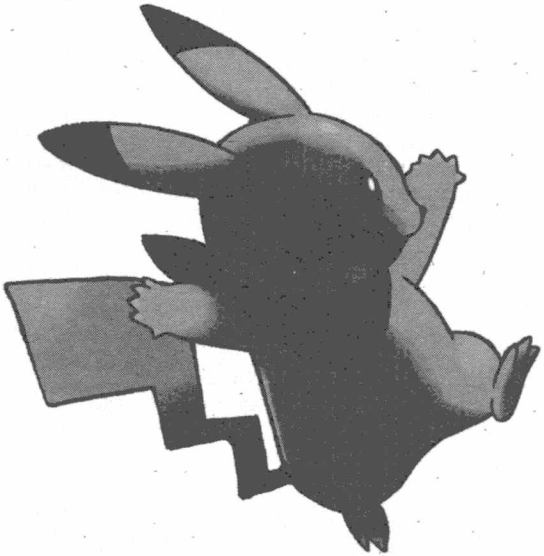

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Tiny Powers Take Over!

by Melissa Beckwith, age 11

"Ouch!" moaned a ridiculously weak Magikarp as he flopped to the ground.

"Ha, ha!, who's the big baby?" teased a large group of Water Pokémon. This Magikarp was named Magic. He sighed. Picking himself up, he swam off to get some SERIOUS training done. Magic swam to a nearby clearing. He took his usual position in front of a small rock.

"Charge!" shouted Magic using Tackle... then, as soon as he made contact with the rock, he fainted!

"Ha, ha, ha!" laughed the watching Water Pokémon once again. Then Magic started to get MAD. He shivered and shook all over until something amazing happened! A bright light surrounded Magic. It swirled all around until finally the terrifying image of a Gyarados appeared! Swooping down, he grabbed his fellow Water Pokémon and took them to the depths below. Gyarados was out of control, taking Pokémon from land as well as sea. Then, one sunny morning, a cute Pichu came trotting by.

"La, la, la!" she sang. Suddenly Gyarados rose quickly out of the water!

"Ahhhh!" screamed Pichu! Slowly, Pichu started to back away. And then, without another word, Gyarados grabbed Pichu and pulled her into the water. As fast as lightning, Gyarados swam to the depths below with the little Pokémon in tow.

In the morning, Pichu awoke to find himself in a massive cage teeming with Pokémon, with fear in their eyes. As she looked around she could see that they were in a small cave. Suddenly, Gyarados appeared out of nowhere.

"ANYBODY WHO SHALL DEFY MY ORDERS MUST STEP FORWARD NOW!" screamed Gyarados. Silence filled the cave.

"GOOD! NOW YOU SHALL WORK AS MY SLAVES TO BUILD MY NEW KINGDOM!"

Pichu thought for a moment, then turned to a depressed Hoothoot. A plan was forming. Pichu told Hoothoot about her plan, and how Hoothoot could use Hypnosis on Gyarados so that Machop could use Brick Break on the cage and then they could all escape! Once everybody was ready they began... first, Pichu got Gyarados's attention.

"Hey, over here you big uur... lump!" Gyarados turned round and Hoothoot used Hypnosis. Then, while he was sleeping, Machop used Brick Break just as they had planned, smashing the door. There was a stampede as the Pokémon rushed for the sea to swim up, except Sudowoodo who needed to be forced to escape... but then Gyarados woke up!

Surprisingly, Pichu used Thunderbolt on the giant Pokémon! Gyarados was floored in ten seconds flat. After much frantic swimming, finally Pichu reached dry land. As the Pokémon waddled out, the crowd of pocket monsters were cheering her name!

"PICHU, PICHU, PICHU!" they chanted. Pichu felt so happy, a bright light came over her body, 20 seconds later a Pikachu appeared! It was a happy ending after all!

Arceus's Final Decision

by Sonyusha Pandit, age 12

After an exhausting journey, Arceus arrived at the castle and trudged up one thousand stairs and banged on the castle doors. "Open!" Arceus roared – and since he was a wizard, the doors opened. Then he plodded up three more flights of stairs and into the master bedroom where he saw his 130-year-old sons, Giratina and Dialga, arguing about who deserved to be king. "Silence!" he yelled. The two brothers stopped quarrelling and stared at their father.

"What do you want? We are trying to have a conversation here!" shouted Prince Giratina to his father.

"No, let him speak," said Prince Dialga.

"I know who the king is – it is... Prince Dialga!" said Arceus.

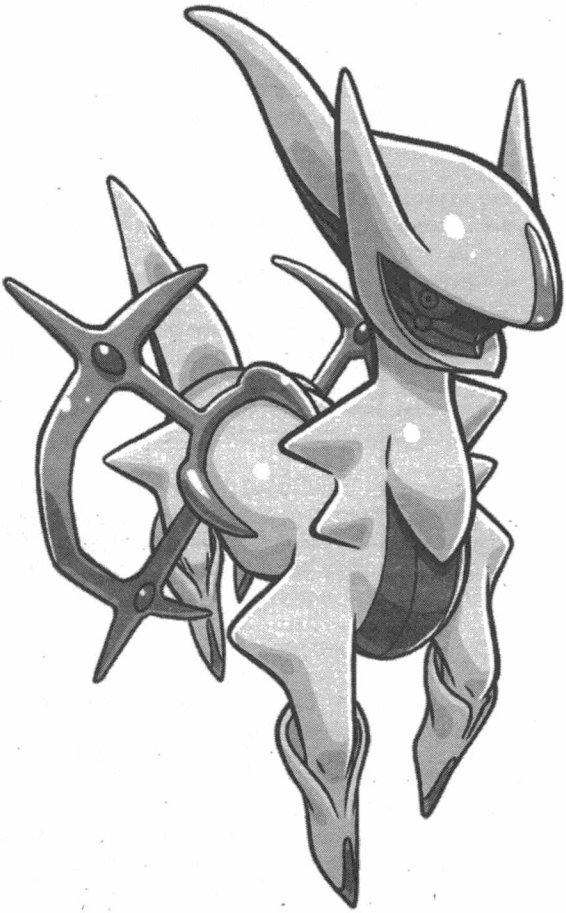
"But... why Dialga?" screamed Prince Giratina. "I am the oldest, I have battled the most Pokémon, I have done the most chores, I HAVE DONE EVERYTHING! WHY CAN'T I BE KING?"

"You may have done all of those things, but you have disobeyed me several times," said Arceus, "and Dialga has always obeyed me. As you know, I will die when I am 200 years old and I am 199. We need a new king fast!" There was a long pause. "Well, since you both want to be king so badly, you shall go on a quest and help Pokémon who are in danger. Whoever does the best job will be king."

On the day of the quest both Dialga and Giratina went into the castle's library, where Arceus was. The wizard had made a portal for his sons to go through. Throughout the quest they completed many dangerous challenges. They soon realised that they could get along easily and they decided that they both wanted to be king together. On the fifth night Giratina saw a purple light. "Come on, I think our journey has ended," he said. They went through the portal and were back in the library.

"So, who is king?" asked the brothers.

"Dialga, you are worthy of being king because you helped Giratina with nearly all the challenges... Giratina you are also worthy of being king because you helped Dialga to survive on the cold ice path... so I am proud to say you are joint-king!" said Arceus and smiled for the first time in many years.



Shaymin! 'Til The End Of Time!

by Natalie R, age 9

Natalie looked into the distance and sighed. The Sinnoh region was not much to look at. "Come on Jolts. Let's just carry on." Jolts, her Electivire, let out a roar of agreement. She continued walking and, to her surprise, there was a bed of flowers right beside her.

"Huh?" Natalie paused. Something was moving in the flowers! She stopped to touch the moving thing and it yelped! "What would happen if I... picked it up?" Natalie thought. So she knelt down and picked up the creature, which was now crying. Strangely, Natalie's attention was drawn to the purple scar on the mysterious creature's back. "Oh, you poor thing! You've been poisoned!" Natalie exclaimed, reaching into her bag. She pulled out an Antidote and began spraying on the scar.

Five minutes later, the flowery monster felt a whole lot better as it nibbled on Natalie's Poffins.

"Ah, this feels great! Thank you... my name is Shaymin. And you are?" Shaymin looked at Natalie as if reading her thoughts.

"WAAAH! YOU TALKED!" Natalie dropped to the ground in shock. "Uhhh... my name's Natalie," she replied, blushing a little. Shaymin sweat-dropped, watching this human's foolishness.

"Not quite talking. It's telepathy." Shaymin smiled and continued eating. When it had finished eating, it walked up to Natalie and jumped on her head. Little did Shaymin realise that Team Rocket planned to capture it..

"Yes, Giovanni... will do. Black Tulip 009 over and out." Domino nodded, as she replied to her boss on the walkie-talkie. Tossing back her blonde hair, she whipped out a jetpack to jump out of her hot air balloon. "Little hedgehog Shaymin will not know what's coming to her." Domino smirked and, with the jetpack on her back, did a triple flip out of her balloon.

Natalie smiled, looking up at Shaymin as they continued up the path. This really was fun! As they walked, more and more flowers began to bloom. Suddenly, Shaymin jumped off to look at the flowers... and changed Forme! Natalie gasped. But she concealed her shock and walked on.

To both Shaymin and Natalie's surprise, a net fell on Shaymin!

"MUAHAHAHAHA! Yet another Pokémon fallen to the likes of Domino!" Domino leaped onto the path.

"No way! I'm not letting you take Shaymin! Splash, I choose you!"! Out of the Poké Ball came 'Splash', Natalie's Wailmer. "Use Aqua Tail on the net!" Easily, Aqua Tail let Shaymin out of the net. Then Shaymin unleashed a powerful Seed Flare on Domino, who then retreated.

"YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE LAST OF DOMINO!" She jumped back onto her balloon and directed the hot air balloon to the Spear Pillar. However, Natalie was unfazed and kept on walking. "All right! I can see Sunyshore City from here!" But before she could get to Sunyshore, the sky turned black. The ground began to shake violently. Then, out of nowhere, Dialga appeared.

"No way! Is this real?!" Natalie exclaimed, her knees shaking like the ground.

"GUURRROOOOARR! I AM DIALGA! I HAVE BEEN SUMMONED BY A HUMAN! IF I SEE ANYTHING ON MY PATH, PREPARE TO FIGHT! GUURRROOOOARR!" Dialga said to Natalie (using telepathy).

"Ohh... if it's a fight you want, that's what you'll get! Out you come, everyone!" Natalie threw her Poké Balls. Out came Jolts (the Electivire), Splash (her Wailmer), her Skitty 'Charm', her Chikorita 'Petal', her Torchic 'Flame' and 'Spook', her Gastly. "Now everyone, use your strongest attacks! At full power!" All of Natalie's Pokémon set to attacking, with Shaymin helping, and they floored Dialga with ease.

So, what happened to Natalie? She continued her journey, with Shaymin now one of her Pokémon! And everyone had no need to worry any more.

Johto Jymz

by Eleanor Eagleton, age 11

The Annual Meeting of Johtoan Gym Leaders was taking place. Just as it started, the large wooden doors opened nervously and Bugsy shot into her seat.

"Sorry I'm late; I forgot my Pokédex," she said apologetically. Clair frowned.

"You've got to brush up on your timing, Bugs. You're a valuable member of the League. If you don't get here on time in a crisis in which we need you, you may doom us all. Anyway, on with the meeting. I'm sure you're all aware that Team Rocket has been releasing false publications in the papers directed at us. The first thing we should do is keep comments to ourselves, however much the press try to get out of us."

"If they squeeze anythin' outta me, they're not gonna remember it!" shouted Chuck angrily, flexing his arm muscles. Morty frowned.

"You can't just punch people when you let something slip, Chuck, otherwise your new home'll be a prison cell. Let your brain make the decisions, not your fists," he answered calmly to the pumped-up muscle man. Chuck shot him one of his You-Smarty-Pants-Kid looks. Falkner froze in his seat, rigid. He had heard something.

"Guys..." he mustered in fright, but his colleagues were too busy discussing and arguing to bother listening. Whitney glanced at him.

"Are you okay, Falky? You're not ill, are you?" she asked, pulling back his fringe to check how hot his forehead was.

"No, I'm fine."

"All right. But tell me if you feel sick, and I'll tell Pryce."

"Okay, thanks, Whitney." Whitney had a soft spot for Falkner. Then, an almighty crash shook the wall!

"AAAAAAAAAARRRRRRRGGGGHHHHH!!!!!" screamed Bugsy and Whitney as they clung onto each other in terror. Clair's Salamence was at the ready in his Poké Ball, gripped by Clair's white-knuckled fingers. The wall had had a hole blown in it, and

as the dust cleared, they all got a sickening shock.

"At last, I have been able to break through. It has been many years, Clair, since we talked, and maybe I can rekindle our relationship." It was the boss of Team Rocket, Giovanni! Falkner intervened...

"You touch her and I swear you'll never see the light of day again!" Giovanni just laughed and pulled out a Master Ball.

"I trust you are lying, yes? Because if not, I shall have no choice but to let my Pokémon do the dirty work." Then, a mean-looking Dusknoir materialised from Giovanni's Master Ball. Instinctively, Falkner slipped his hand into his pocket, his fingers curling round his trusty Staraptor's Poké Ball. Already, Bugsy's Ariados and Whitney's Vigoroth were waiting.

"Ahh... a three-way challenge. I'll look forward to this piece of cake!" Giovanni laughed cruelly. Staraptor flew out of her small home in Falkner's pocket.

"We're ready whenever you are, compost-breath," Whitney spat in anticipation.

"Dusknoir, Shadow Ball!"

"NOIR!" screamed the massive ghostly Cyclops as it summoned a ball of black energy.

"Staraptor, let's go with Steel Wing!"

"Ariados, String Shot!"

"Vigoroth, let's use Sucker Punch!" A flurry of commands shot from the three Leaders' mouths as they dodged Dusknoir again and again. Giovanni kept using Shadow Ball, targeting Staraptor but proving far too slow. Then, after about 20 minutes, Giovanni instructed it to use a move none of the Gym Leaders had ever heard of.

"Strangler's Arms!" yelled Giovanni. Dusknoir drifted up to Bugsy and placed his arms around her neck!

"Aaargh! Gaacchh! Bleuucchh!" Unfortunately, Bugsy had bad asthma and the harder Dusknoir squeezed, the closer the poor girl came to having the worst asthma attack of her life.

"LET HER GO!" yelled Chuck, sending in his Machamp to assist Bugsy.

"CHAMPCHAMPCHAMPCHAMP!" he cried as he used

every form of martial arts Chuck had taught him. Machamp wasn't about to let his small friend die in front of her best friends. Dusknoir swatted him away like an irritating mosquito. Machamp didn't care; he still strangled Dusknoir and gave him several blows which would have been fatal to a human. At last, Dusknoir released his grip on Bugsy and she stumbled over to Morty, who hauled her to a chair.

"YOU ARE SO GONNA PAY FOR THAT, YOU MONSTROSITY!" yelled Falkner as he rugby-tackled Giovanni to the floor, beating his head angrily. Jasmine nearly fainted as Giovanni released a strong flow of crimson blood from his head. Dusknoir quickly sent Falkner flying by flicking him with a finger off Giovanni's back and proceeded to use Recover on Giovanni. It was like a videotape in rewind. The blood sucked itself back into his head and the cut closed up. Giovanni stood up majestically, as if he was a god. Then, Clair's Salamence swooped down and hammered Dusknoir with Hyper Beam, in unison with Whitney's Vigoroth using Leech Seed. The two attacks made Dusknoir sink back down to the floor and into his Master Ball. Giovanni's face turned purple with rage.

"HOW DARE YOU DEFY THE MIGHT OF TEAM ROCKET! ONE DAY WE WILL SUCCEED! ONE DAY WE WILL OVERTHROW EVERY REGION BEFORE TEAM GALACTIC!" With that, the tyrant made a run for it.

"Going somewhere?" asked Jasmine, accompanied by the angry grunt of her Bastiodon. Giovanni shook with shock and fell hard on the floor in a dead faint. Pryce handled this situation.

"Okay, Abomasnow. Carry this piece of scum back to his sewer." His huge Pokémon threw the unconscious Giovanni over his shoulder and stomped off to the Team Rocket base.

"Falkner, can you hear me?" Morty's voice drifted into Falkner's head.

"Yeah..." he managed to answer. Dusknoir had knocked him out when he had thrown him against the wall off Giovanni's back.

"He'll be all right – maybe just some concussion, an aching back and neck and probably very mild amnesia," Pryce was explaining to Falkner's parents.

"I'm just glad he's not broken anything. We couldn't afford to lose our precious son," his mother said, thanking Morty and Pryce again and again. (Pryce was training Morty to be a doctor.)

"Where's Falky?" came the frantic voice of Whitney as she burst into the Gym HQ's hospital wing.

"Here," Falkner replied, overjoyed to see her. Then, he asked for everyone to leave the room so he and Whitney could be alone.

"How come you're..." began Whitney but she was too late as Falkner leaned forward and kissed her!

"Thank you," he said. Whitney blushed as Falkner giggled in delight. He knew he could make her smile by doing anything!

A few weeks later, the meeting was reconvened successfully, with Clair awarding Falkner a Certificate of Leader's Duty for his bravery. She gave him a hug and they threw a huge party, as it was also Whitney's birthday. Everything ended blissfully!

Pokémon Mystery Dungeon: Explorers of the Oceans

by Jamie Lucas

Even in the deepest parts of the ocean there is great power, love and hate. But there is always good. Some of you may think you know what 'good' means. Well it means whatever you want, but what we mean by good is as in good and evil. It is exactly like Pokémon Trainers: love, hate, great power... but always good. This brings us to a story...

"You'll never catch me, Finneon!" yelled Piplup.

"Of course I will," replied Finneon.

The two best friends were the source of good in the ocean. They were strong in power but never showed it. They were playing tag throughout the ocean. Piplup was swimming as fast as he could to get to... well, anywhere really. But what he didn't know was that he was heading towards great danger... Lugia's den. What he also didn't know was that his worst enemy was working for Lugia. As they came to the darkest part of the ocean, Piplup stopped.

"What's wrong, Pippy?" asked Finneon.

Finneon was now looking in Pippy's direction. There in the shadows was a small, darker shadow. The shadow was so dark that you couldn't see it in the darkest part of the ocean. It was a fish with legs and a long tail. It must have spotted them because it swam away.

"I think we should go after it, Pippy," whispered Finneon.

She swam after the shadow with Pippy behind her. Suddenly the Pokémon stopped in front of a huge cave large enough to fit 2,000 Wailords in.

Finneon swam straight into the rocky cave using Safeguard to illuminate the path.

"Finneon, wait!" called Pippy.

Finneon didn't listen. Pippy swam after her.

The Pokémon were battered and bruised from all the fighting until finally they found the shadow. It was Vaporeon. Vaporeon chuckled.

"Look, I'll show you to my master so he can get rid of both of you!" he roared and then swam off through a hole.

They followed after eating an Oran Berry each. The cave was light with decorations all over the inside. There was a cliff, and just ahead a large waterfall.

"Master, you have weak guests," laughed Vaporeon.

The cave shook as a large shadow appeared. It was a giant bird with hands... Lugia. Lugia slapped Vaporeon into the wall.

"Be quiet, slave!" the Legendary Pokémon roared.

Lugia glared at the two smaller Pokémon. He grabbed them in his hand and opened his mouth. BOOOM! They fell into water with Lugia beside them. Vaporeon had used Hydro Cannon on Lugia.

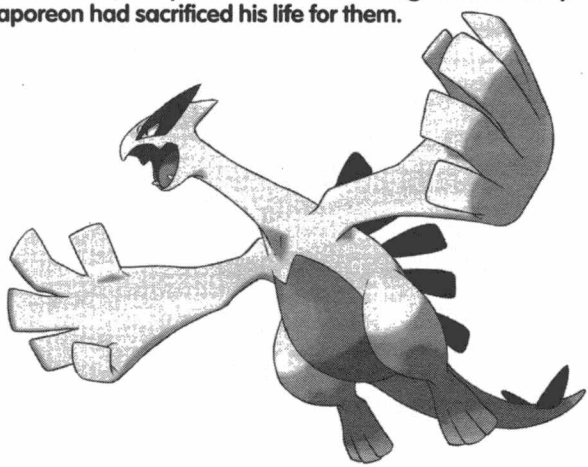
"You saved us!" said Finneon in shock.

"Use your escape ropes and get out of here!" Vaporeon yelled.

"What about you?" asked Pippy.

"I will be fine," replied Vaporeon.

They used their escape ropes and were free. The cave tumbled and collapsed on the seabed. Lugia was destroyed. Vaporeon had sacrificed his life for them.



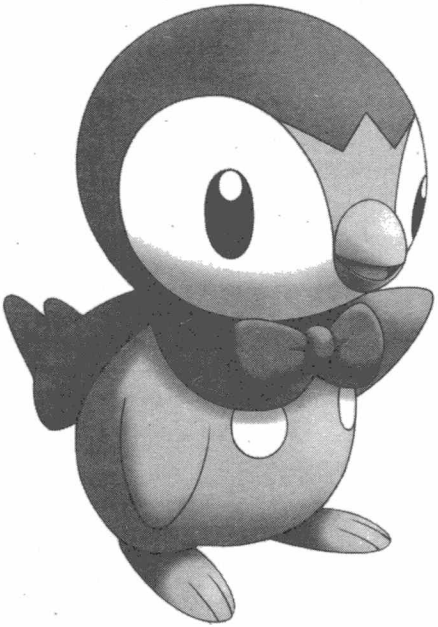
The Ultimate Battle

by Chiara Oppo, age 11

Now, if you are a big Pokémon fan, you should have heard of Ash Ketchum and co. And you should know the annoying yet entertaining Team Rocket. Well that's what this whole story is about. I'll tell you the story.

Ash Ketchum is the world's greatest Pokémon master ever. He has caught all known Pokémon (apart from the Legendaries), travelled all four regions and met quite a number of friends. Through his journeys, however, he has had numerous encounters with Team Rocket, a mean and crazy gang of Pokémon stealers. They have terrorised people in all regions, though Ash and friends usually manage to stop them and send them blasting off. Well, now Ash has had enough and is going to try and put a stop to the whole organisation.

"Right, so you're trying to defeat Giovanni, head of Team



Rocket?" Brock questioned Ash as he talked about his plan. Brock, Misty, May and Dawn had all been invited over to Pallet Town to hear about Ash's crazy idea.

"Yep, that's the main idea," Ash replied, sounding pretty sure of himself.

"Are you going mad?" Dawn asked him.

"Oh, come on guys, you all know Team Rocket. Those idiots have made my life a misery and it's time to put an end to it. I'll really need your help if this is going to work," Ash pleaded.

After a lot of muttering between the others, May decided that they would help to defeat Team Rocket.

"Thanks guys. So, stock up on items and take your most powerful Pokémon," advised Ash.

"Wait a minute," Misty interrupted, "when exactly are we going to do this?"

"As soon as we're all ready. I've got all my stuff so I'll stay here, and report back once you've got everything."

So, after many days, our heroes had finally made it to Team Rocket HQ.

"Whoever knew that this base was built on top of a mountain?" Misty complained as they reached the top of the stormy grey Mt Coronet.

"I think that's the main entrance. Follow me," said Brock They all ran towards the entrance.

"Wait a second guys, they'll never let us in looking like this. Put these on," Ash said, pulling out a bunch of Team Rocket uniforms.

Okay, so after they got changed, they all ran towards the entrance. Of course, the security guards let them through, thinking that they were just members. And the team all found themselves…

"I think it's this way." "No, it's this way!"

…completely lost.

"Woohoo, we made it to the top floor!" May cheered as they stood outside Giovanni, the head of Team Rocket's office.

"Shh, he might hear you," Ash scolded.

Ash knocked on the door, Pikachu staying incredibly silent.

"Come in," a voice said from the other side of the door.

Everyone burst in through the door at the same time, commanding their Pokémon.

"Pikachu, Thunderbolt!"

"Sudowoodo, Rock Throw!"

"Starmie, Water Gun! Wait, not you Psyduck!"

"Skitty, Quick Attack!"

"Piplup, Bubblebeam!"

A display of electricity, water, rocks and pink cat knocked the boss off his desk chair.

"Who is responsible for this?!" he boomed, "Jessie, James, Meowth, take care of these imposters!"

The minor members of Team Rocket entered the scene.

"Prepare for trouble," Jessie cautioned.

"Make it double," James added.

"Can you stop your silly rhyming already?!" Brock shouted.

"Well, if it isn't the twerps. We'll handle them boss," Jessie said. "Seviper, use Poison Sting!" she shouted as Seviper came out of its Poké Ball.

"Cacnea, Pin Missile," James called as his Cacnea came from its Poké Ball.

"Pikachu, Volt Tackle on Cacnea!" Ash commanded. But Cacnea dodged the attack.

"Skitty, use Pound on Seviper!" May commanded. But it had no effect whatsoever.

The Poison Sting and Pin Missile hit Pikachu and Skitty, causing a lot of damage to them. This was strange. Ash had never seen Team Rocket so powerful before, but he wasn't about to give up. The problem was that more Pokémon were fainting by the minute.

"Ha, seems like we're going to win this battle," said Meowth confidently.

Just then, a screeching noise seemed to shake the building like it was an earthquake, only it was coming from the sky.

"What was that?!" Brock and James said simultaneously. The window smashed. Everyone turned to see that Arceus had just flown in through the window. So had Dialga, Palkia and Giratina, as well as every other Legendary Pokémon you could think of: Celebi, Groudon, Heatran, Manaphy, Mew, Shaymin,

Articuno, Moltres, Zapdos, Suicune, Entei, Raikou, Deoxys, Jirachi, Lugia and Ho-Oh.

Everyone was just standing there, open-mouthed. No one had seen so many Legendary Pokémon in one room. Jessie almost passed out. May was very happy to see Manaphy again, after the adventure she had with it in previous years. All the Pokémon seemed to be talking to each other, in their own language of course, as if they were planning a battle strategy. After their conversation, they charged at Jessie, James, Meowth and Giovanni and started some mad battle frenzy. Ash couldn't believe what he was seeing. Team Rocket seemed to be on the brink of surrender, and he didn't have to do anything. But just in case, he sent Pikachu to help. Misty sent her Horsea as well. Brock sent out Croagunk. May asked her Blaziken to help and Dawn asked her Buneary to help as well.

Suddenly Deoxys stopped fighting. Team Rocket had passed out. They weren't dead, just unconscious. Ash phoned all the Officer Jennys in the region to come to the Team Rocket headquarters, and a Nurse Joy or two.

As he did that, the others noticed several boxes of Poké Balls, which all contained Pokémon.

"These must be all the poor innocent Pokémon they've stolen," Brock said.

"We must return them."

"Well do that then, while I wait for the Officers," Ash said.

"The idea was a little crazy, especially with the visit from the Legendaries, but we did it. Team Rocket have been arrested and all stolen Pokémon have been returned," May said as everyone was leaving the headquarters.

"Yeah, it was a plan that went well, even though I do admit that it was a bit mad," Ash agreed.

"It was definitely an unforgettable experience," Brock said.

"It was funny seeing Jessie and James getting beaten like that," Dawn giggled.

"And for once it seems Psyduck was being useful," Misty sighed, looking at her Psyduck.

And everyone started laughing as they all walked home.

Save That Shaymin!

by Matthew Andrews, age 12

One day, Lapras was swimming around the moat of Icelake Town. She looked up at the gleaming ice turrets, the gentle waterways and the Pokémon swimming through it, and she thought to herself how lucky she was to be a citizen of this beautiful haven for Ice- and Water-type Pokémon. She watched the Wingull fly around the city, delivering messages to the other citizens. Suddenly Lapras noticed something on the bank. She swam closer and saw Shaymin, a lovely Grass-type Pokémon, washing herself in the lake. She thought about the latest news about how that evil Darkrai was trying to kidnap Shaymin. She thought how brave Shaymin was. As a member of the 'Thinkers Group' as well as the Aqua Rescue Team, Lapras thought a lot.

Just then, there was a crack, and a black fog covered Shaymin. When the fog lifted, Darkrai was standing over the Pokémon. He used Shadow Ball and knocked her flying, and then he used Hypnosis to send her to sleep. As Darkrai was just about to flee with Shaymin, Lapras sent a Hydro Pump into his back and knocked him over. Darkrai jumped back up and sent a Dark Pulse at Lapras, but Lapras went under the water and dodged the attack.

Lapras surfaced to find Darkrai engaged in battle with Rescue Team Ultra, who must have heard the fighting and ran to the scene. This team of Lucario, Alakazam and Dragonite were known as the best rescue team in the world, and they lived up to their reputation! Lucario jumped over a Shadow Ball and used Aura Sphere on Darkrai, knocking him to the ground. As Darkrai struggled to get up, Dragonite hit him with a Thunderbolt, and then Alakazam used Psybeam. Darkrai fell to the ground with a crash.

But Darkrai was not defeated that easily. He used a huge Hypnosis to send everyone in the area to sleep. Alakazam, however, was too clever for Darkrai and he put up a Psychic Shield to defend himself from the Dark Power. He then used a Psychic Attack to knock Darkrai to the floor. A Confusion and Darkrai was finished.

Alakazam woke up his friends and Dragonite went to put a pair of handcuffs on Darkrai. But as he got near to Darkrai, the criminal vanished.

"Only one explanation," growled Lucario. "Darkrai has a partner-in-crime to get him out of tight spots like this." Dragonite nodded in agreement.

"But," said Alakazam, "we saved Shaymin, and that was the main objective." He turned to Lapras. "You have helped us to stop a wanted criminal and save a very precious Pokémon from his clutches. You have our thanks."

Lapras felt like her heart would burst with pride. She looked over to the spot where Shaymin was stirring, and felt even prouder. Shaymin pulled herself up and looked at Lapras and said…

"Thank you, kind Lapras. I cannot do a lot to repay you, but you will always have my heartfelt thanks, and I am forever in your debt." Then Shaymin drew herself up and used her power; Lapras had a crown of flowers, and felt better than she had ever done in her life.

"Yes, well done Lapras," said Lucario. "But now we must take Shaymin to a safe place and continue our search for that Darkrai and his accomplice." With that, Rescue Team Ultra ran with Shaymin into the woods, and they were gone from Lapras's sight.

Lapras swam back to Icelake Town and told all her friends what had happened. A few days later she received a message via Wingull-mail, asking her to join Rescue Team Ultra. She joined and to this day, she is thinking in the lake around Icelake, or saving Pokémon. Shaymin travels the Pokémon world, giving gifts and spreading peace. As for Darkrai, he was never found and most believe that he has retired from his criminal life.

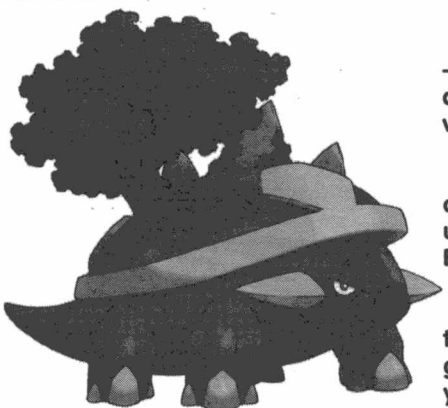
Pokémon Mystery Dungeon: Explorers of the Underworld

by Anja Parker, age 11

Arghh!!" groaned Torterra as he fell back from Walrein's Ice Fang attack. Just then, Infernape quickly countered with his Close Combat attack while Torterra was recovering, and brought the battle to an end.

"Another narrow defeat," muttered Empoleon. They continued through the dark dungeon that was located in the underworld. The team knew that there were more strong Pokémon to defeat; however, they did not know that Weavile, who was a spy working for the dungeon boss Giratina, was watching them from overhead.

Empoleon was trailing behind the others when Weavile swept down and, in a flash, kidnapped Empoleon! Eventually, after a few battles, the remainder of the team noticed that something was not right. When they realised that Empoleon was not in their presence, Infernape and Torterra instantly started to shout...



"EMPOLEON – COME BACK HERE!" at the top of their voices.

Suddenly, Weavile appeared with an unconscious, captured Empoleon.

"Since you're all too weak for your own good, you can have your friend back!" he

taunted. With that, he hurled Empoleon at them and vanished in an instant. Empoleon landed with a crash on top of his team, and they all regained consciousness within a short time.

"Come on! We still have to find Weavile and Giratina," commanded Infernape.

After some time they reached the end of the dungeon. Weavile was there; however, he did not flinch at their presence – the Pokémon only chuckled. Then Giratina appeared as quick as Weavile could have ever done.

"This is not only the end of the dungeon, but the end of you too!" he growled in a deep voice.

Instantly, an earthquake took place and, realising they had no choice, Infernape, Empoleon and Torterra used their escape ropes and fled from the terrible disaster.

As for Giratina, he is believed to have been destroyed. However, Weavile still managed to escape and abandoned his master.

Get Back Home!

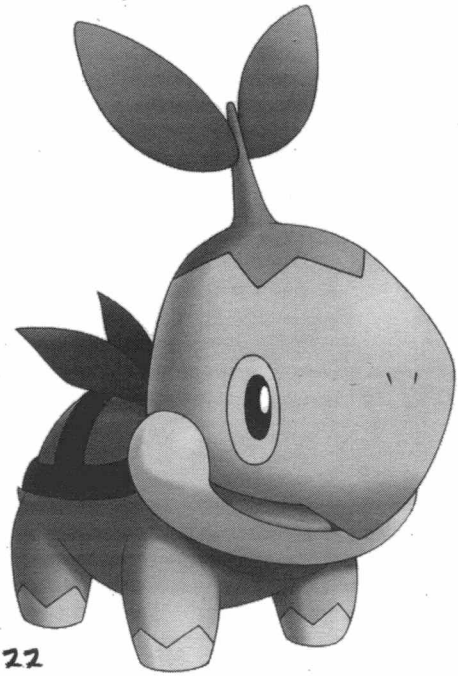
by Callum Handy, age 8

One snowy freezing day, Chimmy the Chimchar was wandering through Freeze Forest when he saw a frozen statue in the shape of a Pikachu. He thought to himself, "Poor Pikachu." Chimmy breathed out fire and melted the ice! Pikachu was really happy. The electric mouse Pokémon said, "Hello my name is Pika. It is nice to move again, thank you!" They both shook hands.

"Where are you from?" Chimmy asked.

"I'm from Twinleaf town," he replied.

"I'm from there too," said Chimmy. "Will you help me get back there?"



"Okay," said Pika, so they walked and walked.

Soon they were in Snowpoint City and they spotted a cave. They entered the cave and walked down the lumpy, uneven floor. It came to an end, but then a hole appeared in the cave floor. It had a slide-like thing so they slid down it. It was bumpy and they saw a Turtwig's head in a pile of rocks.

The Turtwig said, "Please help me out, I'm scared!" But what was he scared of? Pikachu made his tail turn really hard and then slammed it against the rocks. The rocks smashed! Turtwig chirped up, "Can I join your team?"

"Yes!" Pikachu and Chimmy replied. But then they saw a Gengar with a Riolu and a Baygon. Gengar had blocked the only path available to the Pokémon. They pushed and pushed but he would not budge. Chimmy breathed fire and Pikachu shot electricity and Turtwig shot leaves!

Then Gengar, Riolu and Baygon shot up thr

ough the cave roof – they had gone far away! So the team went through the path. It wasn't long before they were at Veilstone City. They decided to visit Lake Valor, but all of a sudden bubbles appeared, then a Piplup's head popped up... it was drowning! Suddenly a Mesprit's eyes could be seen glowing really bright; the Piplup started to float in the air. The Mesprit had lifted the Pokémon up with its mind! It was a miracle!

The team asked the Piplup if he was okay. The Piplup replied, "Well I am now."

"Would you like to help us get back home?" Pikachu asked on behalf of the team.

"Yes, okay," came the reply. It wasn't long before night fell; the Pokémon looked around and found some sticks. Chimmy breathed flames and made the sticks into a camp fire.

Chimmy said, "What will we call our team?"

Pikachu replied, "PokéBuddies!"

"Cool," said Chimmy. Then they asked Piplup, "Can we surf on your back?"

Piplup chirped, "Yes!"

They were soon surfing on Lake Valor, heading towards home. Eventually they got to Jubilife City, but then Gengar's team came back; this time he looked stronger. All the PokéBuddies used their best special moves and Gengar was once again defeated. He flew up in the air, far away. The PokéBuddies happily walked and walked until they got back to their home – it turns out they lived next to each other!

Pikachu's Adventure

by James Timmins, age 10

One day in Pokémon village, Pikachu woke up and walked out of his house. "I'll go for a walk in the forest, " he said. So off he went into the forest. He walked for ages and met an Espeon.

"Umm, hi... I'm lost," said Pikachu.

"Ahh, teleport!" Espeon cried. Right behind Pikachu was a hungry Gyarados.

"Thunderbolt!" cried Pikachu. The Gyarados vanished into thin air. A Gastly appeared... the Gyarados was an illusion!

"Hypnosis!" Gastly said quickly.

Pikachu woke up and was on a rock in the middle of a lake. Pikachu rubbed his eyes; he was in his own dream! He glimpsed an unusual thing under the water and then the head of a Latios!

"Latios?" Pikachu whispered. All of a sudden something burst out of the water. It was Kyogre! "Iron Tail!" cried Pikachu.

"Take down!" Kyogre shouted.

"Thunder!" Pikachu shouted.

"Ow, ow, ow!" Kyogre growled. He swam under water as Pikachu looked down at the lake. There was a giant whirlpool that quickly swallowed Pikachu up! The yellow Pokémon ended up in a huge cave with water up to his ankles. The Latios had gone but he was in the whirlpool!

"Wah, who are you?" Pikachu yelped at the Pokémon.

"Oh... my name is Manaphy," came the reply.

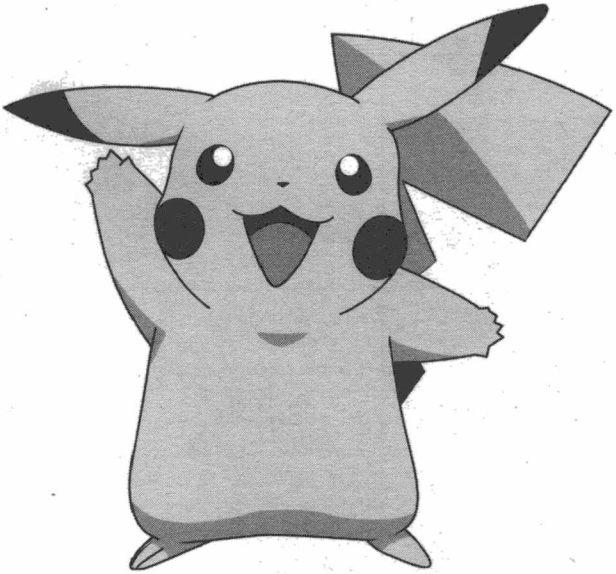
"Are you a Water-type?" Pikachu asked.

"Yes," said Manaphy.

"Ahh, the rocks are falling... we'll drown!" cried Pikachu.

"I won't!" said Manaphy and the Pokémon teleported away.

"Quick Attack!" shouted Pikachu and the Pokémon held its breath and used the Quick Attack on the ceiling of the cave. He swam and swam through the lake until he got to the top, then he swam to the edge. "I've got to find my way out of this



dream!" an alarmed Pikachu yelped. "Oh, there's a house... let's go!"

Pikachu knocked on the door and a Torchic answered. "Hi," said Pikachu.

"Umm... hi!" muttered the Torchic.

"Where am I?" asked Pikachu.

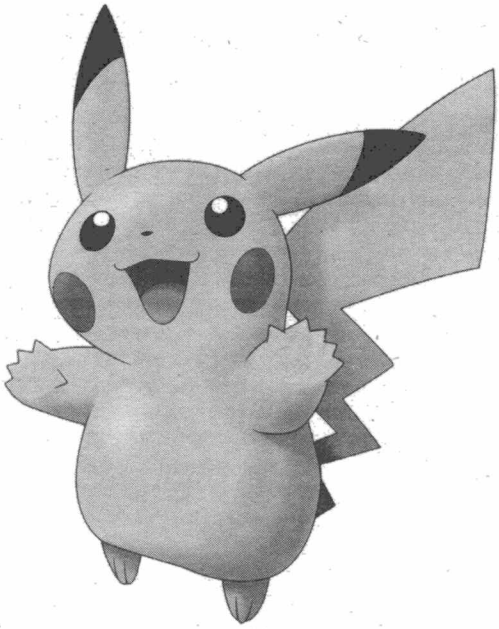
"Utopia, of course!" came the reply. "Come on in. If you're looking for a town, there's one at the other side of the forest." Torchic told Pikachu.

"Thanks, I'll go straight away," Pikachu thanked Torchic. "Bye!"

Pikachu ran and ran through the dense forest on his way to the city, until he came across a sign for the 'Battle Slug'. "What's the Battle Slug?" thought Pikachu. "Better find out!"

The Battle Slug turned out to be a special place for Pokémon to battle and fine-tune their skills. "Oh great a battle, I'll sign up," thought Pikachu. The first match was against Voltorb.

Voltorb used Thunder, Pikachu used Quick Attack. The two



Pokémon collided with an explosion. Voltorb was out! "Just 12 more battles and I'm up again!" Pikachu said.

There followed 12 powerful battles and then Pikachu was up again facing a Seedot, but they changed the battle to five minutes and this time they had judges for it.

"Iron Tail!" Pikachu cried. Seedot used Absorb but Pikachu fought back with a Focus Punch, then Zap Cannon, but Seedot used Solarbeam. Seedot was down! Then another six battles and Pikachu was up against Latios! "There you are!" Pikachu said.

"Hydro Cannon!" Latios shouted.

"Thunder!" Pikachu cried. It was evenly matched, but very slowly the Thunder headed towards Latios. BOOM! Latios was down.

After another five battles it was Pikachu Vs Gastly. "You!"

Pikachu cried. "Put me back, Thunderbolt!" Pikachu demanded.

"OK, Dreameater!" Gastly shouted out.

"Aaahhhh!" cried Pikachu...

"I'm back, it ate my dream! Woo-hoo!" shouted Pikachu, back in real life at last. He was outside a house; it was Gastly's. Pikachu ran to the Pokémon village, hoping to make it back to his own house, but a Mew attacked before he could get there! "Let me go, Mew!" demanded Pikachu, "Thunder!"

"Safeguard!" Mew cried.

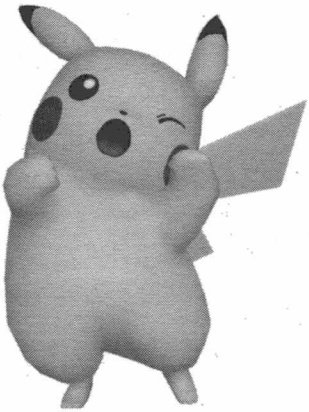
"Iron Tail and Quick Attack!" responded Pikachu. It was a direct hit! A great combination of attacks.

"Psybeam!" Mew screamed.

"Focus Punch!" Pikachu shouted. The result was an amazing collision, but Mew was too strong for the Electric Mouse Pokémon. "Help me!"

"Don't worry!" someone shouted. It was Larvitar, Pikachu's best friend. Larvitar used Sandstorm and Pikachu used Thunder... Mew was down and Pikachu said goodbye to Larvitar. Then Pikachu used Quick Attack to get back, but he turned towards the village and he zoomed with Electric power! He eventually got back home again. "I've learned Volt Tackle!" Pikachu cheered.

And that was Pikachu's adventure!



Giratina's Back!

by Charles Hibberd, age 11

"I'm back," said Crossfire, a handsome looking Infernape, walking into the room. He dropped a small, brown bag. "I've been waiting," said a sly Giratina emerging from the shadows. Crossfire dropped a small shuddering bag in front of Giratina and undid the tight binds of rope around it. "I believe this is Celebi," Giratina spoke again. A squeak came from the bag. Crossfire stuck his hand in and pulled out a small, green creature. "Well done," said Giratina. "Let me go," Celebi wriggled about. Two Lucarios barred the exit. "Now for the ultimate prize," Giratina smiled.

"Mesprit, Mesprit!" Azelf cried. He was prowling Deep Dusk Forest after Celebi's disappearance and he'd just found a small note. Mesprit floated out from behind a tree. "What?" he said. "Look," replied Azelf. He picked up the note and showed it to Mesprit. "001FGS24NMC76043GSA... what does that mean?" questioned Mesprit. "It's some kind of code," Azelf replied. "For what?" Mesprit asked. "Can you stop asking questions? I don't know," said Azelf getting irritated. "Sorry," came the reply. "Hey, I've just had a good idea," Azelf bolted. "If we read the code out, maybe it'll do something?" The two smiled and spoke: "001FGS24NMC76043GSA."

"Tell us!" Giratina sent another blast of Dragon Rage at Celebi. "I'm sorry, I don't know it, I haven't got my sheet," said Celebi crying in pain. Suddenly there was a flash of light in the forest below. "Hmmm, I don't like the look of that," said Giratina concerned. "Crossfire, go check it out." "Yes sir," Crossfire obeyed. The fire ape bounded out of the hillside cave. The two Lucarios parted and then closed back together. "Now, I'll ask you again, what is the code?" taunted Giratina. "No, please!" cried Celebi weakly.

Crossfire scanned the wood, looking for the source of the flash. He clambered up a tree and peered over the treetops, nothing. He looked down at the ground, there was something

there, he scampered down for a closer look. It was a small sheet of paper. He scan-read it. He knew what it was, he picked it up and scarpered. Giratina was going to be so pleased.

"Look what I've found," said Crossfire walking in. "What?" cried an angry Giratina. Crossfire held the sheet in front of Giratina. "No, not my sheet," said Celebi. "Huh," said Giratina looking up. "Oops." "Your sheet now is it, Celebi?" taunted Giratina. "Oh, and what does it do now." "I won't tell," said Celebi turning away... "Owww!" Another Dragon Rage hit the small Pokémon hard.

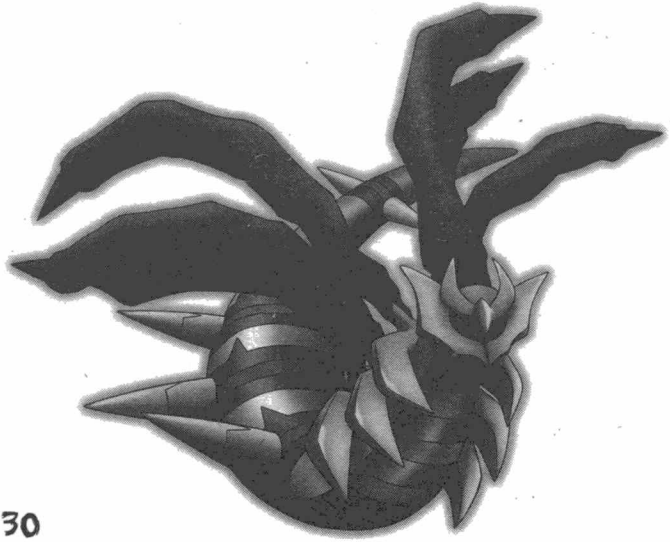
Mesprit and Azelf burst back through the portal. "What was that?" asked Azelf. "Oh, so you're the one asking questions now," said Mesprit grinning. "Oh, for Ash's sake, can we please stop that now?" replied Azelf. "I think, that may have been the future," said Mesprit. "As if," Azelf replied sarcastically. "Well actually, it could be, that code, this is where Celebi was last seen, she can control time, maybe this is her secret," Mesprit

said, bending down to pick up the piece of paper. "That's funny," he said, "I'm sure we left it here, and there's no wind."

Heatran prowled his mountain. "No! This can't be, and he has Celebi, what does he want? He must be stopped!" raged the beast. "Heatran calm down," said Uxie floating in front of the metal volcanic Pokémon, "I can deal with it." "But how? What if he attacks you before you can wipe his memory?" Heatran questioned. "Then I fight back," said Uxie calmly. "But, but..." Heatran had nothing left to say. "Uxie, I'm worried, what if he does what he did last time, you remember? We were all hiding, no help... Uxie, be careful," he said. "I will" Uxie replied.

"Thank you," said Giratina. He finally had the code's meaning. "So, let me get this straight," said Crossfire, "you want to travel into the future to see if you rule the world." "Yep," came Giratina's reply. "Celebi, I have no need for you now, you can go," he said, but he said it to no-one, Celebi had already gone. Giratina read out the code, there was a flash of light and a portal appeared.

Giratina looked around, it was his dream. No gravity, no Pokémon, nothing, and he ruled. He went back through the portal to see Mesprit, Uxie and Azelf glaring at him. Crossfire whined on the floor, the two Lucarios nowhere to be seen. "Oh



look, it's the puny squad," he taunted. "Uxie," said Azelf and Mesprit. "No!" cried Giratina, whacking him across the cavern next to Crossfire. "Sorry, had to," mouthed Uxie to the Infernape looking at him. Mesprit and Azelf scowled at Giratina. The red diamonds on their foreheads began to glow. "Come on Uxie, we need help," encouraged Azelf.

Heatran paced up and down his room. "Oh no, oh no," he said to himself, "I hope they're alright." Suddenly, to Heatran's surprise, Celebi floated in. "Giratina has seen the future, he knows what it's like, we have to count on Uxie to wipe his memory," Celebi was shaking. "Just pray," said Heatran, "just pray."

Uxie was struggling to gain enough health to perform the Red Chain. "I know," said Mesprit. "What?" said Azelf quickly. "If I use Healing Wish then Uxie will have enough power to perform the Red Chain with us, and effectively save the world," said Mesprit. "But you'll die!" exclaimed Azelf. "To save the world," replied Mesprit. "But we won't be a trio any more," Azelf began to cry. "Can you two hurry up?" Uxie remarked. "Fine, do it," said Azelf. Stars shrouded around Mesprit so no-one could see him. Suddenly Uxie rose. He looked across to the dead Mesprit lying on the floor. "He did good," Azelf said, tears dropping from his eyes.

The Red Chain was formed. Giratina was about to strike a blow to Uxie again when Palkia appeared. "Whaaa!" cried Giratina in shock. "You again!" bellowed Palkia at the dragon. His arm began to glow and he smashed Giratina to the floor with Special Rend. Just as Giratina got up, Uxie opened his eyes. "Noooo!" screamed Giratina as the last of his memory vanished. He fell to the floor, no memory of anything. Palkia vanished just like that. Crossfire got to his feet and walked over to where Mesprit lay. "You were brave," he said stroking his small head.

Mesprit was buried in the town square, his headstone read... "A brave old soul, taught us emotion, that's why we are sad now. He saved the Pokémon world and we are grateful, no-one could have done a better job, love you always Mesprit."

Lake Verity Explorers Trio. Beginning – 2009

The Space Candle

by Matthew Andrews, age 12

It was cold. It was always cold. And dark. It was always dark. Nothing moved. It was silent. It was always silent. Nothing had happened here for 5,000 years. That was about to change.

Two red eyes appeared, shining like blood in the pitch dark. Six legs shifted. Two wings unfurled from a stretching back, blacker than the darkness surrounding them. A mouth opened, and a piercing screech exploded from it. The first noise in 5,000 years echoed through The Distortion World. The Pokémon in the real world below had no idea what was about to happen. The creature reared up and screamed again. Giratina was awake!

"Remind me why we have to go to this dumb party?" My little brother was always complaining.

"It's not a party Riolu, it's the Space Festival. When Palkia made space, he put a candle in our forest to keep it right. We have to relight the candle every 100 years or space will fall apart!"

"If you say so..."

Elder Charizard always says tell the story from start to finish so I'll try that. Basically, I'm Lucario. I live in The Forest with my (annoying) little brother Riolu, my friend Milotic, the town elder, Charizard, and loads of other Pokémon, from Abra to Zangoose. The Space Candle is the most important thing in the forest, and our story begins with me and Riolu heading off to the relighting ceremony.

The mud was really thick underfoot, the bug Pokémon were driving me mad with their buzzing, and if Riolu jumped in one more puddle I was going to whack him into next year. Not really ideal conditions for a festival but the weather can't be helped. If only a forest Pokémon knew Sunny Day...

Soon we made it to a clearing with the Space Candle in the middle. I spotted Milotic in the lake beside the clearing

and ran off to join her. Riolu ran off, probably to jump in more puddles. All the Pokémon were gathering in the clearing, and as darkness fell, Elder Charizard stepped forward.

"Forest Pokémon!" the crowd fell silent, "I will now relight the Candle of Space, and then the celebrations will begin!"

He stepped forward and charged up his Fire Blast. I wonder what would happen if the town elder was a water Pokémon... anyway, on with the story. Charizard prepared to shoot his fire at the flickering candle, when a tremendous crack sounded and the clearing filled with smoke.

When the smoke cleared, the crowd gasped as they saw Giratina stood over Charizard. Charizard fired at Giratina but Giratina dodged and returned with a Shadow Claw. As Charizard's limp body smashed into the dirt, there was another crack and Palkia appeared, prompting more gasps.

"Yeah, 'coz one mythical Pokémon wasn't good enough for

us," whispered Milotic. I found that it is possible to giggle while watching your town elder get battered by an insane legendary Pokémon and gave Milotic a gentle nudge. Meanwhile Giratina and Palkia were facing off. Palkia smashed Giratina with a Spacial Rend, but Giratina dodged it with Shadow Force and popped out to hit Palkia with the attack. Palkia looked dazed and Giratina's next Shadow Claw sent him spiralling into the trees, knocked out.

Giratina paraded round the watching Pokémon, as if daring someone to fight him. I noticed the candle looked dangerously close to going out and prayed for a miracle. Maybe Dialga, the Lord of Time would appear. Or maybe he wouldn't. Then the candle blinked out.

I think that might be what made me act, or maybe I just hated watching Giratina beat people down. The trees were already stretched out of shape, the grass was rippling and the lake water was twisting into spirals and curves. I felt my

muscles tense and, not knowing what I was doing, I let rip with my Extreme Speed attack and smashed into Giratina. He was caught off balance and I thought, "If he's going to kill me anyway I might as well give him something to remember me by."

As Giratina regained his balance I shot my signature Aura Sphere into his face and followed up with a double kick, but as he reeled his claw hit me and sent me flying into the lake. He walked up to me and readied the Shadow Claw that had knocked out Charizard and Palkia, but at that moment an Ice Beam hit him in the head. I saw all the forest Pokémon fire all sorts of different types of attack at him. Pinned down under everything from Fire Blast to String Shot to Hydro Pump to Gust, Giratina could only try to block the attacks as Palkia sent him a Spacial Rend, sending him crashing into the dirt.

"LONG OVERDUE," roared Palkia, smashing a Water Pulse into Giratina, then giving him an Aqua Tail for good measure. "GET BACK TO WHERE YOU BELONG, GIRATINA!"

Palkia grabbed Giratina and Giratina glowed for a minute before disappearing back into The Distortion World. Palkia turned round and said, "THANK YOU, POKÉMON OF THE FOREST," then there was a flash and Palkia was gone as well.

There was a crackle and everyone turned to see the candle back alight. Charizard stood illuminated in the glow from its flame. As everyone ran up to the elder, I slumped on the grass and looked up, and maybe it was just a coincidence, but in the sky there were only three constellations. Giratina and Palkia stood facing each other. And the other one? Well let's just say it looked a little like yours truly...

Pokémon Battle Quest The Mountain of Ho-oh! – Retrieve the Shards!

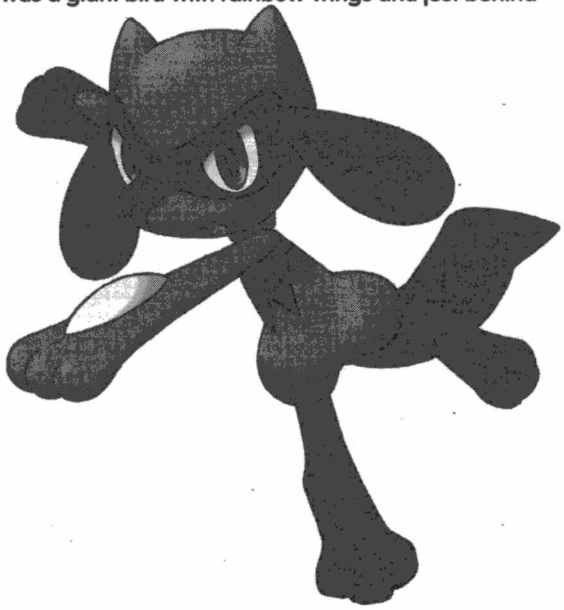
by Brandon Ntuli

A young trainer named Mercury was leaving his home town of Rainfall with his first Pokémon, Riolu...

"Right, five Pokéballs in my belt, let's go get some Pokémon!" said Mercury happily as he started looking for Pokémon to catch.

"Riolu! Rio rio Riolu!" came the chirp from his Pokémon friend.

"What is it, Riolu?" gasped Mercury. They both looked up and high up was an enormous mountain and on top of that mountain were two Pokémon looking right back at them. One was a giant bird with rainbow wings and just behind



the rainbow Pokémon was a very strange-looking Pokémon that just disappeared as soon as it noticed Mercury and Riolu looking at it.

"What was that Pokémon?" asked Mercury, to nobody in particular.

"I believe that was an undiscovered Pokémon, very, very rare," replied a girl who had overheard Mercury.

"Who are you?" wondered Mercury...

"I'm Saskia, an overheard Trainer!" replied the girl.

Mercury carried on, "And you know what that odd Pokémon was?"

"Not exactly. I do know that the Pokémon is extremely rare and is said to leave a special shard known as the Rainbow Shard if you track it."

"The Rainbow Shard?" enquired a bemused Mercury.

"Yes, the Rainbow Shard is an ancient item that makes any

Pokémon holding it much more powerful!" Saskia filled Mercury in.

Mercury was getting very excited about finding the Rainbow Shard. "Let's go to the top of that mountain and find the shard!" he shouted. And the three of them set off on the long trek to the top.

Later that day Mercury, Saskia and Riolu reached the top of the mountain and had seen the Rainbow Shard, but the big rainbow Pokémon was guarding it, making taking the item very difficult – even though the Pokémon was asleep! As the Pokémon woke up, Mercury and Saskia got ready to battle this giant Pokémon and take their prize.

"What Pokémon is that?" queried Mercury.

"I believe its called Ho-oh" Saskia quickly replied. Mercury got out his Pokédex to check the stats of this monster...

"Ho-oh, the rainbow bird Pokémon, it is said to have created three ancient Pokémon that restored peace to an old village", Mercury read out from the Pokédex. "Wow, this Pokémon must be pretty powerful then!"

The two Trainers prepared for battle and then sent their first Pokémon cascading from the safety of their Pokéballs...

"Riolu, you're up!" shouted Mercury.

"Go, Piloswine!" commanded Saskia.

"Riolu! Use Focus Blast!" came the shout from Mercury.

"Riolu!!!" screamed Riolu as the Pokémon let rip with its special move.

"Piloswine! Blizzard" was Saskia's choice of move.

"Swiiiiiiine!!!" screamed Piloswine as it did precisely what its Trainer commanded.

"Gyaaahh!!!" shrieked the Ho-oh as it unleashed its Sacred Fire attack and created a huge explosion that clashed with the attacks of Riolu
and Piloswine...

The smoke eventually cleared and the battle had ended – Ho-oh had flown away!

"Where's the Rainbow Shard?" asked Mercury.

"Ri-ri-riolu!!!" said Riolu as he noticed a glow in the distance. Riolu had found the Rainbow Shard and as the pocket monster

picked up the item, Piloswine noticed yet another gem, the Aura Shard nearby...

"It's the Aura Shard!" exclaimed Saskia as she started looking towards Riolu. "Piloswine, you found this?" Piloswine smiled and looked happy because it knew it had found something good! "Piloswine, this is great! Thanks a lot, you can now return to your Pokéball."

"That Aura Shard will help you a lot more than the Rainbow Shard, but I wonder what Pokémon left it behind?" Mercury said as Saskia examined the new shard item.

"Who knows what kind of Pokémon left it behind, but I bet it was a pretty good one", the girl Trainer mused.

As the heroes left the mountain and headed of for the next town, they looked at the shards and thought, "Y'know what? This could be the beginning of a great adventure for the two of us!"

Gym Battle Problems!

by Rachel Terzian, age 14

"C'mon Teddiursa," Sophie cried. She was in the middle of a gym battle against the famous Crasher Wake, the Gym Leader of the Pastoria Gym. Sophie had been on her journey in Sinnoh for quite a while now, and had so far collected three Gym badges. Beating Crasher Wake would mean she would have four badges, but it wasn't going to be easy. Sophie had only just caught her Teddiursa, and unfortunately it wasn't very strong.

Sophie's other Pokémon had fainted during her intense battle with Wake, and now only Teddiursa was left. Wake, however, still had all three of his Pokémon left.

"Teddiursa, use Fury Swipes!" Sophie cried. Teddiursa ran at Crasher Wake's Quagsire, claws exposed, but Quagsire easily dodged out of the way and showered poor Teddiursa with a Mud Bomb attack. Teddiursa was down! Sophie had lost!

"Good battle!" Crasher Wake said kindly to the disappointed Sophie.

"Yeah..." Sophie said.

The next day, Sophie decided to train Teddiursa up even more so that, hopefully, she could win the battle. The other Pokémon that Sophie would be using in the Gym battle

were Turtwig (her first Pokémon) and Mothim, who were also ready to train. The training begun. Teddiursa tried very hard to master its accuracy, especially with its Fury Swipes attack, and also worked on its speed. Sophie knew that Teddiursa was training hard, but she also knew that Teddiursa was quite a weak Pokémon. Suddenly it struck her. What if she evolved her Teddiursa?

"Hey, Teddiursa," Sophie said, "How would you feel if we tried to train you up enough so that you could evolve?" Sophie was expecting Teddiursa to jump up happily in agreement, but this did not happen. Teddiursa's face turned a pale white, as if Sophie had just told it that she was going run it over with a bulldozer. "What's the matter?!" Sophie asked, looking at a stunned Teddiursa.

"Teddiursa, ursa!" Teddiursa answered, which, when translated into English, meant "I don't want to evolve!"

Sophie was shocked. Teddiursa continued to explain that it preferred to be itself. After all, if it evolved into an Ursaring, it would no longer look cuddly and cute! Sophie understood. Her Teddiursa didn't want to change, and she wasn't going to force it to evolve. And so, the training continued.

The day came for Sophie's next gym battle with Crasher Wake. The judge explained the rules – it was, once again, a three-on-three battle. Wake sent out his huge Gyarados first, whilst Sophie went with her Mothim. The battle was tough, but, after several successful Bug Buzz attacks, Gyarados was down. Wake sent out his Floatzel next. Mothim was weak from its battle with Gyarados, and Floatzel easily defeated it with a powerful Water Pulse attack. Next, Sophie sent out her Turtwig. Sophie thought this battle wouldn't be too difficult as Turtwig was a Grass-type and had a type advantage over a Water-type like Floatzel.

However, the battle was far from easy. Floatzel knew the Ice Fang attack, one that is super effective on Grass-types, and Turtwig was easily defeated. Now, Sophie only had Teddiursa left! But she was not going to give up. She believed in Teddiursa.

Sophie let Teddiursa out of its Pokéball. The battle begun.

Floatzel used Water Pulse, but luckily Teddiursa dodged and charged at Floatzel with a Fury Swipes attack. Floatzel dodged it with ease, and then hit Teddiursa with an Ice Fang. Teddiursa fell to the ground, greatly hurt. Floatzel then let out a powerful Water Gun. It hit Teddiursa.

"You can do it, Teddiursa!" Sophie cried. Teddiursa looked up at its Trainer. Sophie believed in Teddiursa, and Teddiursa knew it. And it wanted to do anything to help Sophie get the Gym Badge. Even evolve.

Crasher Wake and Sophie watched in shock as a bright white light surrounded Teddiursa's body. When the light faded, standing in Teddiursa's place was a gigantic bear... an Ursaring! Teddiursa had evolved!

"Oh, Teddiursa!" Sophie cried with delight. "You evolved for me so that I could win the battle!" Moved, tears began to drop down from Sophie's face. But the battle was far from over.

Floatzel attacked first with Whirlpool, and Ursaring watched as a gigantic whirlpool began to rush towards it. Ursaring then unleashed its claws and slashed them into the whirlpool. The whirlpool was completely destroyed in a matter of seconds!

"Now, use Hyper Beam!" commanded Sophie. A super-strong Hyper Beam hit Floatzel, causing it to crash down to the ground, fainted. The last of Wake's Pokémon was Quagsire, the Pokémon that all of Sophie's Pokémon had lost to in her previous battle. Quagsire began with a Mud Bomb attack, but Ursaring skilfully dodged and hit Quagsire with a Hammer Arm. Quagsire fell to the ground but got up.

"Dive under water!" Wake ordered. Quagsire dived and gave Ursaring the shock of its life when it jumped out of the water.

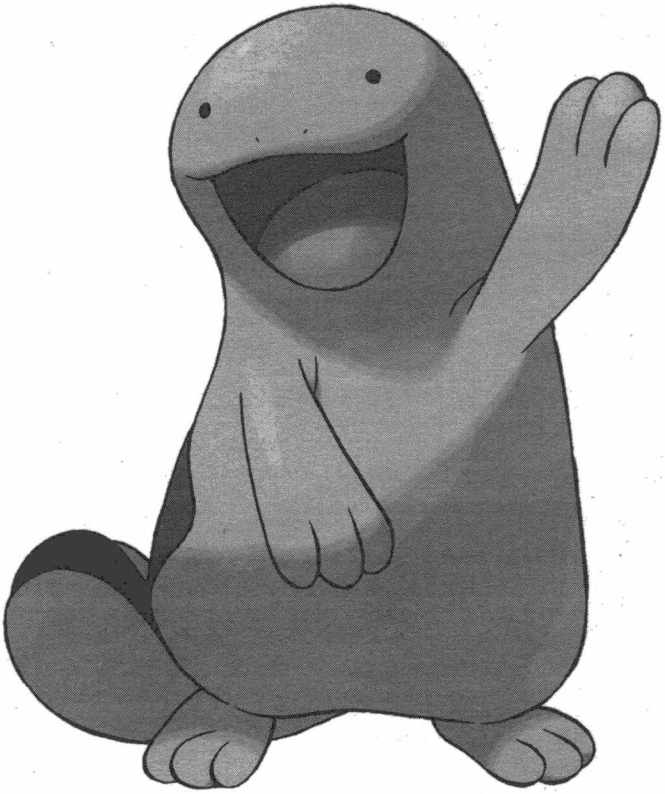
"Now use Mud Bomb!" said Wake, and Quagsire showered Ursaring with a Mud Bomb attack. However, Ursaring counter-attacked with Fury Swipes, and begun to slash through all of the mud so it caused Ursaring no damage.

"Now... HYPER BEAM!" Sophie cried, and Ursaring blasted Quagsire with Hyper Beam. Quagsire fell to the ground. The judge looked over at it. Then he cried, "Quagsire is unable to

battle! Ursaring is the winner! The victory goes to Sophie!" Sophie leaped up in the air with joy, and then cuddled her Ursaring.

"Thank you!" she cried.

Sophie was awarded the Gym Badge, and it wasn't long before Sophie was continuing her journey once again!



The Only One

by Belinda Copeman, age 13

"Sir, you called?" said the man; he was dressed in khaki green right down to the boots. But there was a large red "R" on his right pocket. R for rocket, Team Rocket.

"Yes," said another man, his entire body was silhouetted against the light from the window he was looking out of. "I need a full status report, what the heck is happening down there?!"

"Well, sir, the experiment isn't going as we'd planned, the Rattata we cloned isn't obeying orders. I think we should abandon this experiment sir, no one can seem to figure out what's wrong."

"Did I ask for your opinion soldier!?"

"No, sir"

"Then operation Double Ancient is to be continued regardless of the circumstances. Do I make myself clear, soldier?"

"Yes, sir"

"Good, dismissed!"

Suicune and Gardevoir were extremely bored. They lay in one of the clearings near the forest they had stayed in for a few months. "I sure wish I had something to do," Gardevoir said, breaking the silence. "I know it's our week off, but could it be so boring."

"Hmm I know, I wanna go and save the world, like we do when it's not our week off!"

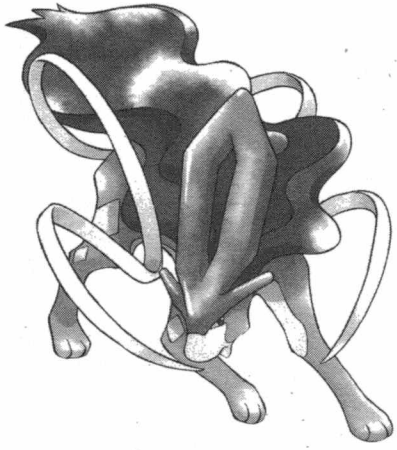
"Oh well, I can see a shape of a Misdreavus, that's the coolest one in a week!"

"You are a little crazy G, you know that, yeah?"

"'Course I do!" They both sort of giggled, and then went back to lazing around.

"OK, I'm feeling really lazy at the minute, waddaya think? Should we just take a walk to the next town and see what's up there?" Gardevoir said.

"Hmmm, yeah what the heck!" Suicune replied, and they walked to the town.



When they arrived everyone was crowding around one street.

"Hey, let's check that out," said Suicune, glad to see some adventure on what had been the most boring day yet!

"Oh, no need, I overheard a couple of Gallade and Kirlia talking about a factory of some kind that was being built here," Gardevoir answered.

"Yes, but we don't know what they're doing there."

"Sheesh, you have an answer for everything!"

"It must be nice having so many friends that are your own kind, I'm not even sure I have a family. I just exist, and it messes my head up just thinking about it!"

"I'm sure there are other Suicunes around. Just not here."

They ran towards the factory and pushed through right to the front of the crowd.

"...and furthermore," said the little man in front of the factory, obviously giving some kind of speech, "we here at Rocket Corp. will delve deeper into the lives and worlds of these Pokémon friends of ours," the crowd listening cheered in a rather hypnotic manner. "We will continue to provide excellent service and accommodation for the Pokémon we employ," the crowd cheered in the same way again, "and we will make their lives and yours a little easier." The crowd just would not stop cheering – it was like they were under a spell of some kind.

Suicune looked down at Gardevoir about to say something, when she felt something at the back of her head.

"Ouch!" Suicune yelled.

"What is it?" Gardevoir asked.

"I dunno, could have just been a bug or something."

"OK, if you're sure."

"Right, yeah." They started to walk back to the clearing in the forest.

The two Pokémon were walking back through the forest near the town they had just come through.

"So," Gardevoir said, munching on a few pink berries she had picked from one of the trees on the way, "we know what the factory does, and yet, I sense worry and unease from you."

"Yeah, I don't like it, it feels like there's something wrong with that place, it doesn't feel right if ya know what I mean?" Suicune said with a tone of bitterness.

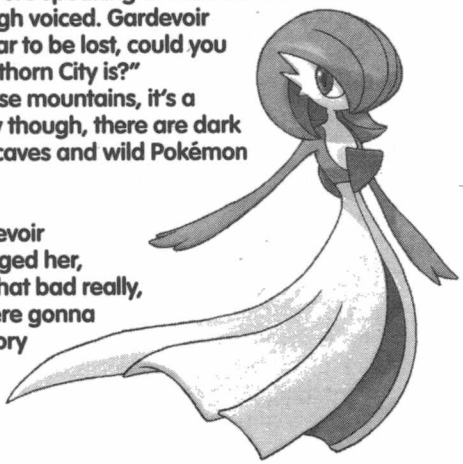
"OK, but... it's not like we can just go up to them and say 'Hi, sorry to bug you but we get a bad vibe from your new factory. Do you mind if we check the inside of the premises?'" Gardevoir said sarcastically. "Come on, I don't even wanna begin to imagine what's inside there!"

"I would feel less negative if you'd let me go and check... I mean, it could endanger the entire world of Pokémon, you know..." She stopped ranting and raving there, for in the path they were just about to walk stood another Suicune. It looked like an ordinary Suicune, except instead of it being a gorgeous aqua blue, it was a deep hue of jet black and had large chunks of real diamond embedded in its coat.

"Greetings," it said. It had a strange voice that sounded like two Pokémon were speaking at the same time. One deep voiced, one high voiced. Gardevoir shuddered. "I appear to be lost, could you tell me where Blackthorn City is?"

"It's just over those mountains, it's a treacherous journey though, there are dark forests and creepy caves and wild Pokémon eating people!"

"Suicune," Gardevoir whispered and nudged her, "it's not that far or that bad really, and even so, we were gonna investigate the factory that's in Mahogany Town; it gives her the creeps, which



give me the creeps, so..."

"Yes, I understand," the black Suicune said, "I shall accompany you on this heroic quest."

"Actually we don't..." Gardevoir began, Suicune cut her off.

"OK, we leave um... just as the sun goes down, that way we have the cover of
nightfall, okay?"

"Okay." The other Suicune agreed and ran off into the forest.

"Well, you're not the only Suicune around here then, are ya?"

"No, not any more."

"I sense happiness; that's good!"

At sunset that night, Gardevoir and Suicune set out back into the forest to meet the black Suicune in the town. The night air was cold and biting, it snared and blew around their faces taunting them, whispering words that they could not hear, incantations that meant nothing.

"Are you sure about this?" Gardevoir asked as they approached the factory.

"100 percent" said the black Suicune.

Gardevoir growled. "Here's the entrance."

"So what?" said Suicune, "are we gonna hop the walls or blow 'em up or something?"

"No, we are going to walk in through the main entrance."

"Huh? How dumb is that?" Gardevoir growled again and stood outside the gates, staring blankly at the main entrance. "What's wrong, G?"

Gardevoir looked at both Suicunes.

"What...? Oh, nothing, you two go on ahead, I'm gonna stay here, I'll holler if anyone
sees me."

"Okay then." Gardevoir waited until they were both out of earshot before she ran back into the forest.

Inside the factory was warmer than the outside of it, but it was still cold. The titanium floors were like ice at their feet, cold and slippery. They walked for what seemed like forever, passing cages and tanks full of Pikachu, Rattata, Bidoof and Pachirisu. Then followed by cages of the same Pokémon, except they were snarling, growling and sparking as if eager for battle. "These li'l

dudes are freaky, and the whole idea of finding out what goes on here doesn't sound like such a good idea any more," Suicune said.

"Yes, that is all part of my master's plan. Moreover, you have no choice – the doors were all shut and barred. There is no escape from operation Double Ancient now," the dark Suicune said.

"Double what now?"

"That is the name of the master's plan; he plans to clone all ancient Pokémon and use them for evil. In other words, I am a clone of the only original, you." A look of shock came over Suicune.

"So I really am alone!"

"Of course! You are coming with me to the boss. He will be delighted with not only my work, but how blissfully unintelligent the original Suicune actually is."

Gardevoir panted – she had run through the entire forest to look for help. She stopped by a lake in a clearing; it was almost dawn by now. She lent on a nearby tree, completely out of breath. She looked up across the waters of the lake – something looked as if it was floating across the lake. It got bigger as if it were coming toward her, she figured it must be a Buizel or a Floatzel, but the thing was blue, and very fast. It halted dead in front of her. Gardevoir collapsed onto the tree. She was shocked at what she had seen.

The Pokémon awoke the next day lying in the same clearing. "Oh thank goodness, it was only a dream," she said. She stood

up and walked to the edge of the lake were she had left some of the pink berries, only to find that she was on the other side of the lake to where the berries were. Gardevoir screamed so hard and loud that it rang through the forest like a bell.

A Suicune popped its head around the side of a nearby tree. Gardevoir looked round to see what it was – as she did, several others looked round the side of the trees as well. So many that there was a large army of them. She took a deep breath as if to scream again, "Please don't scream," said one of the Suicunes, "you frightened all the Cherubi from their nest up there!"

"You're all real Suicune, right?" Gardevoir asked. She was quite startled.

"Real as they come. I'm Indigo. I lead these Suicune."

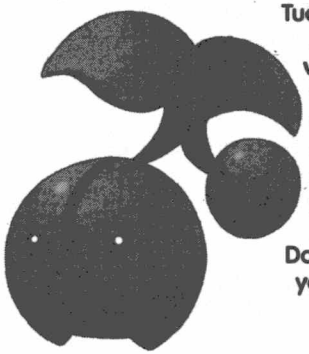
"Purity Forest is our home," said another.

"Then I need your help..." her voice lowered to a whisper, "My friend, a Suicune as well, got caught by Team Rocket and Operation Double Ancient. I sensed a vibe when I tried a future sight attack on the clone Suicune, and we have to save her," she added triumphantly.

"Another one... like us?" one of the smaller Suicune asked.

"Yes, just like you." All the Suicune agreed that something should be done.

Suicune sighed. Not only had this been the most boring day yet, but she had also been locked up and captured by a load of punks who figured it's fun to hurt poor innocent Pokémon. She was in one of the glass cages she had seen a Dark Pachirisu in earlier. It had been clawing and growling at her. "Well, this sucks," Suicune said to herself. "Did I ever mention how I hated Tuesdays?!"



"Yes, and you'll hate them more when I'm done with you." There was a silhouetted figure of a man stood in the light.

"You are part of the Double Ancient experiment," Suicune growled.

"You don't know what the Double Ancient experiment is, do you?" the man replied.

Suicune growled again.

"Well I'm not wasting my valuable time sitting here explaining it to a dumb Pokémon who probably has no idea what I'm talking about." And with that he walked off, leaving the Dark Suicune behind him.

"He won't tell you," the Dark Suicune said, "so I will. My lord and master, the boss. He is trying to clone a race of obedient, loyal and intelligent Pokémon, as we have already established. The intelligence factor worked. They are also ten times as powerful as original Pokémon. And there has been success – tens of thousands of Pokémon all over the world will be upgraded into these super Pokémon. And you, my friend, were the final experiment."

"What do you mean by tha... wait a second, you're my clone?!"

"Indeed I am, were you not listening when I told you? And as you can see, it not only clones the Pokémon, but it makes them absolutely perfect!" The Dark Suicune walked away rather proudly. The real Suicune growled.

"Okay, so everyone's clear on what we do?" Gardevoir asked her new army of Suicune. There was a general reply of "Yes".

"Right, group A, you're with indigo over here." Gardevoir gestured to one of the larger Suicune. "And group B are with me, ready to storm the gates. Okay? Everyone ready? Break!" Group A went on towards the factory.

"How are we gonna know when group A are done breaking the Bidoof cages?" one of the smaller Suicune asked.

"Don't worry Teal, they're gonna send your friend, Aqua, back to tell us." Gardevoir answered.

"Okay."

A few moments later, the small Suicune came to the rest of group B. "The Bidoof are on a rampage. They then broke into the Pachirisu, which decided to pick a fight with a Pikachu who overloaded the power conduits. They won't see you coming, with or without using an imprison move," it said.

"Good work Aqua, you come with us. Alright group B, we're this way!" she commanded. All the Suicune obeyed and followed her.

When they arrived at the factory they noticed all the lights were off and there was a constant sound of buzzing as they approached. Aqua had been telling the truth. They all got closer and they could see the Pokémon running around trying to beat each other up.

"Okay group, on my mark give it everything you've got!" All the Suicune in the frontline charged up for an attack. "Ready?" they all lowered their heads. "On one... two... NOW!" They shot a powerful, vibrant Aurora Beam at the main gate and it swung off its hinges. "Good work team, now to rendezvous with group A in the capture room." They all ran inside the main gates.

Suicune sat in the glass tank she was in, bored, annoyed and used. She sighed again. She heard footsteps, a lot of them coming around the corner. She turned her head and looked up hopefully. As she looked up she saw her friend, Gardevoir. All at once she felt hope, happiness and pride. She looked at Gardevoir who only mouthed "step back" quite frantically before making her next move. Suicune edged her way to the back of the tank. Gardevoir had a small ultraviolet shadow ball at her fingertips and she was about to launch it directly at the tank, and that's exactly what she did. It made a hole in the glass just big enough for Suicune to climb out of. Gardevoir helped her climb out of the cage and onto the floor. "Thanks G, I can't believe you did that all
by yourself!"

"Well..." Gardevoir looked down the corridor and whistled. All the Suicune that had helped her walked so that they were visible in the little amount of light that there was. Suicune gasped, "Oh my... how'd you... where'd you all come from?" Aqua stood forward.

"Didn't you wonder why it was called 'Purity Forest'?" she asked.

"Well... no I never thought... oh well. We've got rockets to beat up, so nevermind now."

"No need..." Gardevoir said.

"And why not?" Suicune asked her.

"Cos, Teal over here," she pointed to one of the Suicune, "placed an explosive on the ruptured power line and we have about five minutes to make ourselves scarce before the rockets go KABLAMO!"

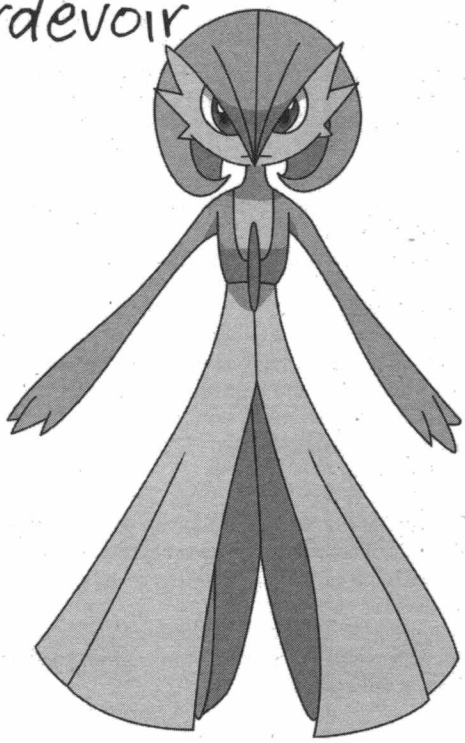
"Cool," Suicune looked around at everyone, "well, what y'all waiting for, the French Revolution?! RUN!"

Everyone ran as fast as they could to get to the door, making it out just in time.

Epilogue

The Suicune and I made it out just in time to see the whole rocket warehouse blow up. We fled to the forest and watched survivors flea from the smoking ruin. We saw most people run, but few survived. All the Pokémon had escaped and everyone was happy about that, I could sense it in all of them. Suicune and I have decided to stay in Purity Forest with the other Suicune. So now everybody is happy. Suicune's not alone, our week off was actually fun, and the Suicune have a new friend. Well, everyone is happy except the rockets and their boss, if he is still alive.

Gardevoir



Lake of Rage

by Francesca Whelan, age 13

Night-time in the Forest. It's dark, but the tangled branches overhead let in just enough moonlight to see by. It's time for Gyarados's annual appearance at the Lake. Gyarados is a colossal, blue Water Pokémon. If he wanted to, I'm sure he could unleash unimaginable destruction. I wouldn't want him as an enemy. I'm glad that in the end, he's just another Forest Pokémon like us, because after all, we are supposed to protect each other.

I can't wait. It's always a special occasion for us Forest Pokémon. It's a time for meeting old friends and making new ones, for telling tales, for celebration of the Forest. In my anticipation I'm not being as careful as I should be. I trip over a tree root and fall headfirst into a pool of mud – and, from the stench of it, most likely something else, too.

"Uuurgh!"

I frantically shake my head to get rid of the stuff and am annoyed to hear amused cackling from above. Gastly again. He really gets on my nerves.

Twenty minutes later I reach the Lake. It's late and most of us are already here. I spot some friends... Vulpix, Nincada, Whismur. I rush over to greet them with my tail bounding after me, and in my excitement very nearly fall head over heels again. As I skid to a halt with my claws out ready to keep myself steady, I bump into Absol, our current leader.

"Be careful! Are you trying to skin me alive? Tonight is meant to be peaceful!" blurts Absol. Then he stalks off to prepare for the coming ceremony.

At first I am irritated – am I not allowed to enjoy myself? But as I calm down I guiltily realise that I probably could have been more careful with my claws. And the last thing he wants is a faceful of Skitty. Our conversations are interrupted as a Sentret alerts us to Gyarados' approach. A ripple of water distorts the moon's reflected image in the lake. Then nothing. What's gone wrong? Where is Gyarados?

Absol steps forward ready to begin the ceremony. We wait.

"We have assembled and are ready to meet you, Gyarados," he announces nervously. Still nothing. Then suddenly, faster than the swish of a tail, he emerges, twisting and thrashing, from the depths of the lake. A great wave of water sprays out and soaks the Pokémon nearest to him. A terrible roar erupts from his wide-open jaws. Why is he acting like this?

There is no time to wonder. Something has enraged Gyarados and we have to stop him before he destroys the entire forest. It seems obvious to me that we need to work together to find a solution, but not to everyone else. A state of panic has descended upon the Forest Pokémon. They are frantically trying to get away from the lake – but what good will that do them? If Gyarados isn't stopped he will destroy anything and everything in his way. If these Pokémon don't stay and help, the whole forest will feel his wrath.

Is there anyone who hasn't lost their sanity? Yes – Absol is courageously standing in front of the lake, attempting to calm the writhing Gyarados.

"Absol!" I screech, trying to reach him through the mass of desperate paws, talons and hooves. "We've got to get everyone organised! We can't do anything like this!"

"Don't distract me! This is our only hope!" But it won't work, and he knows it. Gyarados is quite obviously beyond restraint.

Is it down to me to save the forest? I retreat to the trees where I can keep an eye on Gyarados without being trampled, and something whispers in my ear.

"Help me."

I turn to see a dark shadow floating right in front of me. "Aaaahh!"

In the chaos no one can hear me. Before I can do anything else, it speaks to me again.

"They've all gone crazy. You're the only one who can help." It doesn't sound like a living creature talking – more like the wind blowing through long grass. And yet somehow, I recognise the voice.

"Gastly?"

"It's me."

"What're you doing?" I hiss. "Why weren't you at the celebration? And how did you turn yourself into that... that thing?"

"I'm a Ghost Pokémon. It's easy."

"Don't be stupid! Only the most powerful ghosts can..." Only then do I realise that Gastly must be far stronger than he's let anyone know.

"Skitty, please. I really need your help."

"Why?"

"I... tried to control Gyarados. I thought I could use him to gain power. But instead, I enraged him. I only escaped by changing my form like this. And now it's me he's after.

It takes a few moments for the words to sink in. I can't believe I'm hearing this! Gastly, the annoying little ghost, is some kind of megalomaniac! But then I remember that all of our lives are now at risk.

"Then all of this is your fault!"

"I never intended for this to happen."

"How can you say that? Because of you we could all die! Don't you feel responsible?"

"No. Why should I?"

This goes beyond megalomania. Gastly is... I don't know what he is, but while he lives in the forest, he's a danger to all of us. Although if this goes on much longer, I doubt there'll even be a forest. But if Gyarados is after Gastly, then does that mean that if he finds him he'll leave the rest of us alone? Could I condemn Gastly to death to save the others? My mind is made up. Gyarados will find Gastly eventually whether I help or not, and when it happens he'll have no chance of survival. Anyway, it's not like he cares whether we live or die.

"Follow me. There's a place past the lake where you can shelter."

"Are you insane? Gyarados will kill me if we go past the lake!"

"He won't be able to see you when you're like this."

"You're sure?"

"Positive."

Gastly has no reason to doubt that I am telling the truth. I've never lied to him before, or anyone come to think of it. How ironic that I'm now leading him to his doom. We set off at a

quick walk towards the lake – a quick walk for me but a quick hover for him, I suppose.

"Skitty... This isn't gonna work..."

"It will as long as you keep up."

"Skitty..."

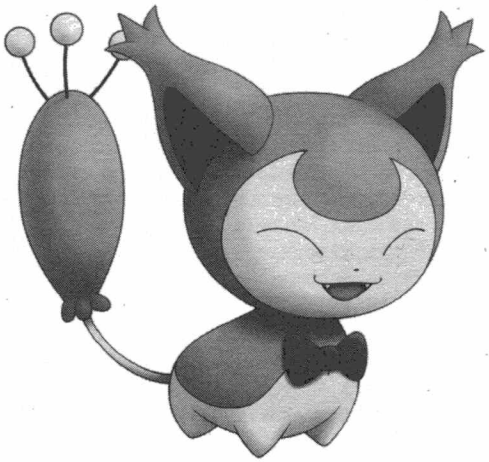
I look behind me to check that he's following. He's not there. It must be because of his strange, shadowy form that I can't see him in the moonlight.

"What happened, Skitty?" asks a familiar voice – Nincada. "Gyarados just disappeared back into the lake..."

I can't believe it happened so quickly. One moment Gastly was right behind me, and the next... I'd rather not think about it. I stare at the lake that is getting calmer by the second. The swirling waters are the only evidence that Gyarados was ever here, and soon they will be gone. The circular pattern of the whirlpools reminds me of Gastly and the fate that he suffered. Suddenly everyone bursts with questions.

"What did you do?" "What was that thing behind you?" "Why weren't you killed?" "How did..." The voices go on until I can't hear any individual question above the noise. Instead of saying anything, I look down into the water for one last time before heading home.

Some days it's tough being a Pokémon!



Meditite's Extraordinary Escape

by Jessie Meyer, age 10

Kelis stood on the hard, rocky battleground, firmly clutching her Poké Ball in her trembling hand. She had not wanted to get involved with Team Galactic but felt she had to stop them – she had no choice, people were relying on her. Wiping the sweat from her brow and pushing her auburn hair away from her face, the small girl prepared to battle.

"Go, Happiny!" cried Kelis, as a little pink Pokémon sprung from it's Shiny Ball to meet the overwhelmingly strong Machoke, that her foe had chosen.

"Use Focus Punch Machoke!' shouted the tall, lean Team Galactic grunt.

Instantly Happiny tried to dodge... in vain! The Focus Punch landed as a super-effective move, fainting the poor Pokémon!

"Return Happiny! Kelis said, through gritted teeth, "You're up Meditite." A strange white Pokémon leapt out from her side.

"Drain Punch!" she roared. Meditite obediently lunged forward, defeating the Machoke before it could attack.

Growling and swiping his light blue hair from his eyes, the Galactic Grunt sent out his final Pokémon – a Seviper, but instead of attacking, the venomous purple Pokémon sprayed black gas across the battleground. Stumbling in the dark Kelis desperately cried out to Meditite, but when the darkness faded, it revealed a deserted mountainside – Seviper, the Galactic Grunt and her beloved Meditite, were gone.

Before Meditite knew it he was caged, loaded into a helicopter and airborne – he had been stolen and now he was alone. He had tried to struggle but the dreaded Seviper had put an end to that, slashing its tail and snarling through the bars.

In the confusion he thought he had heard his mistress call his name, he must escape from this. The Seviper was watching with its small beady eyes. Wasting no time, Meditite sent a forceful blast of Confusion, followed by a powerful Drain Punch on the bars, shattering the metal, he was free from the cage.

All the commotion roused the Galactic Grunt, who turned from the control panel, it was now or never. Making it to the door, Meditite could see the ground below him disappearing fast – Kelis was already nothing but a tiny spec, swallowed by the mountain. Bracing himself Meditite stepped into the air…

For a second he felt suspended in the cool mountain air, then he started to fall. Meditite tumbled down, down, down through space, he mustered his strength and tried to levitate, would it be enough to save him? It was slowing him down, the ground was no longer rushing to meet him and the shape of Kelis was growing larger, he could make out her smiling face.

He landed and leapt into her arms, he had escaped and together they could continue their quest to become Pokémon heroes once more.

Save that Shaymin!

by Matthew Andrews, age 11

One day, Lapras was swimming around the moat of Ice Lake Town. She looked up at the gleaming ice turrets, the gentle waterways and the Pokémon swimming through it, and she thought to herself how lucky she was to be a citizen of this beautiful haven for Ice- and Water-type Pokémon. She watched the Wingull fly around the city, delivering messages to the other citizens.

Suddenly Lapras noticed something on the bank. She swam closer and saw Shaymin, a lovely Grass-type Pokémon, washing herself in the lake. She thought about the latest news about how that evil Darkrai was trying to kidnap Shaymin. She thought how brave Shaymin was. As a member of the Thinkers' Group as well as the Aqua Rescue Team, Lapras thought a lot.

Just then, there was a crack, and a black fog covered Shaymin. When the fog lifted, Darkrai was standing over Shaymin. He used Shadow Ball and knocked her flying, and then he used Hypnosis to send her to sleep. As Darkrai was just about to flee with Shaymin, Lapras sent a Hydro Pump into his back and knocked him over. Darkrai jumped back up and sent a Dark Pulse at Lapras, but Lapras went underwater and dodged the attack.

Lapras surfaced to find Darkrai engaged in battle with Rescue Team Ultra, who must have heard the fighting and run to the scene. This team of Lucario, Alakazam and Dragonite were known as the best rescue team in the world, and they lived up to their reputation! Lucario jumped over a Shadow Ball and used Aura Sphere on Darkrai, knocking him to the ground. As Darkrai struggled to get up, Dragonite hit him with a Thunderbolt, and then Alakazam used Psybeam. Darkrai fell to the ground with a crash.

But Darkrai was not defeated that easily. He used a Huge Hypnosis to send everyone in the area to sleep. Alakazam, however, was too clever for Darkrai and he put up a Psychic

Shield to defend himself from the dark power. He then used a psychic attack to knock Darkrai to the floor. A Confusion and Darkrai was finished.

Alakazam woke up his friends and Dragonite went to put a pair of handcuffs on Darkrai. But as he got near to Darkrai, the criminal vanished.

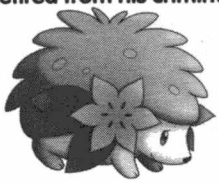
"Only one explanation," growled Lucario, "Darkrai has a partner-in-crime to get him out of tight spots like this." Dragonite nodded in agreement.

"But," said Alakazam, "we saved Shaymin, and that was the main objective." He turned to Lapras. "You have helped us to stop a wanted criminal and save a very precious Pokémon from his clutches. You have our thanks."

Lapras felt like her heart would burst with pride. She looked over to the spot where Shaymin was stirring, and felt even more proud. Shaymin pulled herself up and looked at Lapras and said, "Thank you, kind Lapras. I cannot do a lot to repay you, but you will always have my heartfelt thanks, and I am forever in your debt." Then Shaymin drew herself up and used her power, and Lapras had a crown of flowers, and felt better than she had ever done in her life.

"Yes, well done Lapras," said Lucario, "but now we must take Shaymin to a safe place and continue our search for that Darkrai and his accomplice." With that Rescue Team Ultra ran with Shaymin into the woods, and they were gone from Lapras's sight.

Lapras swam back into Ice Lake Town and told all her friends what had happened. A few days later she received a message via Wingull-mail, asking her to join Rescue Team Ultra. She joined, and to this day she's thinking in Ice Lake or saving Pokémon. Shaymin travels the Pokémon world, giving gifts and spreading peace. As for Darkrai, he was never found and most believe that he has retired from his criminal life.



The Siege of Psychic City

by Conor Ardill, age 12

One day Kadabra was walking around the great forest outside Psychic City. Kadabra being the Deputy Leader of Team Psychic, not to mention Deputy Mayor of Psychic City, was getting his morning exercise when he saw an evil sight. He saw the evil criminal Deoxys. Deoxys had lots of cages full of Pokémon, but, worst of all, Deoxys had chained Rayquaza down. Kadabra got very angry and blasted a psybeam into Deoxys' crystal.

Deoxys fell over on the ground unconscious. Rayquaza, by this time, was screaming his head off with rage. Kadabra ignored him and freed all the other Pokémon first, before coming up to Rayquaza and using a Psychic attack to break the chains.

"Thank you very much," said Rayquaza, "Hey, aren't you part of a rescue team? As a 'thank you', can I join?"

Kadabra, obviously surprised by this remark, flipped open a comlink on his arm and said into it, "Abra, Rayquaza wants to join our team!"

"Roger that Kadabra – let him join!" replied an excited voice. When Kadabra turned round, Rayquaza was powering up his Hyper Beam and aiming at Deoxys.

"NO, NO, NO, that's not our way – we must take him to jail!"

"Sorry, I was just really angry at him for chaining me up," said Rayquaza. "Come on, let's go to Psychic City and get you a Rescue Badge," the Pokémon said with a sigh.

Together they walked back to Psychic City, with Rayquaza carrying Deoxys. Kadabra could freely shout orders into his comlink to get the City ready for Rayquaza's arrival. When they finally arrived at Psychic City, Rayquaza gazed up at the huge walls that were taller than him. "How can Humans not see this?" he wondered. Using his Psychic Powers, Kadabra could hear Rayquaza's thoughts and so answered them...

"It's protected with a Psychic Shield so that humans can't see it and come in and capture us, although there are some humans

that know of its location, such as my trainer. He's the leader of Team Trainer," Kadabra said in a proud voice.

"Who's Team Trainer?" asked Rayquaza.

"Well, they are a massive group who battle against Team Rocket and other evil teams. Team Trainer is a good team, though, and provides its Pokémon with places to live such as Psychic City when they are not using them to battle. I'm here quite a lot because my trainer has close ties with the Saffron City Gym Leader. He even fills in for her when she's not in. He might even be taking over the Gym soon – because of this there is a portal between the Gym and Psychic City for Pokémon only." A horn then sounded. "Oh no! It's Deoxys' army – they must know we have him!" They ran through into the City. Already-armoured fighting-type Pokémon were running up the stairs to the top of the wall. Also, a lot of Pokémon were pouring out of a huge building. Rayquaza was about to ask what the place was but he saw a sign saying 'Psychic College – Where Pokémon learn to use their Psychic Powers'.

Rayquaza looked around... Kadabra had disappeared. "Oh well, I better get Deoxys to jail and join the battle," thought Rayquaza.

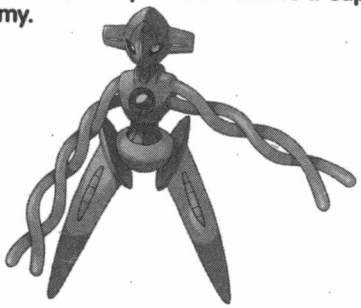
Meanwhile, Kadabra was on top of the walls shouting orders to the troops when a Pidgeot landed beside him and told him "their army consists mainly of Dark Pokémon. It's going to be hard stopping them." From this Kadabra knew this wasn't going to be a battle, it was going to be a siege. Kadabra then shouted to Pidgeot, "Send word of this to my cousin Kadabra in the Underground City. We need his help – tell him he must come!"

With that Pidgeot took off and the Dark Pokémon army came into sight. "Catapults!" shouted Kadabra. A catapult hurled hundreds of Gravelrock into the enemy's battle lines. Then things turned sour for Kadabra... about one hundred Dark Charizards took off and headed for the City. The Psychic College students threw blasts of Psychic energy at them, taking out about half of the force, the rest managed to land and knocked waves of Hitmonlees and Hitmonchans that were trying to repel them off the wall. Kadabra took out two Dark Charizards before engaging with the leader of the Dark Pokémon army, who was a Dark Charizard.

Kadabra dodged waves of Flamethrowers before using Confusion. Kadabra then used two Psychic attacks and a Megapunch to knock the Dark Charizard off the wall, but even though their leader was defeated, the Dark Pokémon army kept on fighting and had now broken the gate, only to be met by the students of the Psychic College. A fierce battle occurred between them and although Psychic should beat Fighting Pokémon easily, the Dark Hitmonlees and Dark Hitmonchans were half Dark. After a while the students started to fall back. Kadabra noticed this and ran down to help them. The students had a morale boost when their leader joined, but this was short-lived, as more Dark Pokémon charged into the City, but then they stopped.

Kadabra looked around. Kyorge, Groudon and Rayquaza all were in Team Psychic and all were charging up their Hyper Beams. All the Hyper Beams were cast at the same time – this had a devastating effect on the Dark Pokémon army. Many fainted and many ran. The ones that ran were pursued by Kadabra and his army then another horn sounded – it was the Underground City army. Knowing that they were finished, the reminder of the Dark Pokémon army surrendered.

Two days later, when all the Dark Pokémon had been arrested and were being turned back into normal Pokémon, the heads of Team Psychic met to discuss what should happen to Deoxys. An hour later, Kadabra told the Pokémon of Psychic City that Deoxys would be sent to Team Trainer and would never see Psychic City or any other Team Psychic cities again. After the battle, Rayquaza decided to live in Psychic City with Kyorge and Groudon who he became friends with, but he became best friends with Kadabra, who promoted him to a Captain in the Psychic City army.



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